

(*Drosera rotundifolia*), rushes (*Juncus* sp.), and algae. Observations indicate that the openness of these special habitats may be maintained by natural disturbance, such as freeze-thaw action.

The margins of the bog are dominated by trees such as Canada hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*), and red spruce (*Picea rubens*) with shrubs such as mountain highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium simulatum*) and great rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*). Cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) is also common in the margins. Islands of red spruce over great rhododendron extend into the bog in some places.

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION: The site has no formal protection, though it has been protected for many years by verbal agreement with the NC NHP. The site should be managed to protect and maintain the hydrology of the bog. Ensuring that buffer areas above and lateral to the bog remain functional is critical to protecting hydrology, as well as protecting against sedimentation from surrounding roads and agricultural areas. Hydrology monitoring wells should be installed in the bog and adjacent areas. The forested areas need little management and should be allowed to further mature. No animal surveys were conducted at this site during the inventory.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Southern Appalachian Bog (Northern Subtype), Northern Hardwood Forest (Typic Subtype).

RARE PLANTS: Bog clubmoss (*Lycopodiella inundata*).

RARE ANIMALS: Alder flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*).

REFERENCES:

- Haggerty, T. 1980. Alder flycatcher in Watauga County, N.C. Chat: 44:83.
Oakley, S.C. 1999. Site Survey Report: Beech Creek Bog Natural Area. N.C. Natural
Heritage Program, DPR, DENR, Raleigh.